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Letter dated 7 May 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

The five Governments of Central Asia have reached a consensus on the establishment of a United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat. While initiating this proposal, the Governments of the region took into consideration the multiple threats that face Central Asia, including international terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation.

In accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change on the need to strengthen the United Nations capacity for conflict prevention, I wish to inform the members of the Security Council about my intention to establish this Centre. The Centre would be established in parallel with the phasing down and closure of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding.

The Centre would have, inter alia, the following functions:

- To liaise with the Governments of the region and, with their concurrence, with other parties concerned on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy.
- To monitor and analyse the situation on the ground and to provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with up-to-date information related to conflict prevention efforts.
- To maintain contact with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other regional organizations, encourage their peacemaking efforts and initiatives, and facilitate coordination and information exchange with due regard to their specific mandates.
- To provide a political framework and leadership for the preventive activities of the United Nations country teams in the region; and to support the efforts of the Resident Coordinators and those of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance.
- To maintain close contact with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region.

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I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon